

Congressman Confirms Report: Rent Controls Off

Board OKs New Pre-Fab School

CENSUS LEAPS 6449

IN NEW HOME BOOM

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\$13,000,000 In New Homes Pop-up in City

A population increase of 6,449 persons in Torrance can be expected by this time next month, started during the past year and completed and occupied, records of the city's building inspection department revealed this week.

Herald Story On Torrance Rents Confirmed

Rents have been decontrolled in Torrance as was reported in the Torrance Herald last Thursday.

Some confusion within the community was created by an erroneous story published in a local throw-away newspaper last Thursday reporting that rents had not been decontrolled.

A check with Congressman Cecil R. King in Washington brought this reply early Tuesday. "It appears that the Expediter removed rent control from all remaining portions of Los Angeles County at the same time that the City of Los Angeles was decontrolled. He bases his action on Section 304 (C) of the act which authorizes him to decontrol any given area where in his judgment the demand for rental housing has been met. It was his judgment in view of the decontrol of Los Angeles and nearly all other cities and areas in the county that the rental demand had been met in Torrance which he considers to be part of the Los Angeles housing market. Under the act local option is given to cities to remove controls, but not to maintain controls where in the judgment of the Housing Expediter any given area should be decontrolled. Regards, Cecil R. King."

The decontrol of rents in Torrance came on December 20 when Housing Expediter Tighe E. Woods in Washington signed a bill ending rent controls in Los Angeles City and closing of the Los Angeles Advisory Rent Board which served Los Angeles, Torrance and six other cities.

Under authority granted Woods under the above mentioned act, the Housing Expediter ended rent controls in Torrance since it was considered as part of the same housing market and that it would have been economically unsound to continue operation of the Advisory Rent Office just to service the seven outlying communities in which rent controls still existed.

Rent controls will continue in effect in other parts of the nation until those cities formally request the controls be dropped. Los Angeles requested the decontrol several months ago.

Also issued was a permit to Dr. John A. Beaman for a \$32,000 office and store building to be constructed at 2055 Torrance boulevard.

Board Postpones Action On Pay Increase Demand

Taken under further study by the Torrance Water Board Tuesday night was a request from the employees of the department asking a \$35 monthly increase.

The Board, consisting of the Mayor and four councilmen, also put over until an agenda meeting next Wednesday evening a request from William Stanger, manager of the water department, for a \$100 monthly salary increase.

Members of the Board first agreed to reach a decision on the request by next Tuesday evening; however, since Mayor Bob L. Haggard and City Manager George W. Stevens would both be in Sacramento at a Civilian Defense meeting and since other departments in the city would be under study, the Board decided to consider the entire salary schedule change before reaching a decision on either request.

A salary adjustment of other department heads of the various municipal departments is also under consideration by the Torrance City Council.

Stanger informed the Water Board at its last meeting early in December he would give the Board 30 days to consider his request for a salary increase from \$509 monthly to \$609 per month.

He indicated he would resign if the Board did not act affirmatively on his request.

Inter-Service Club Banquet Date Set

The semi-annual Inter-Service Club banquet will be held Jan. 25, it was announced this week.

Near Perfect Accident Record Set New Years

A single injury accident, and then not serious, was the only accident to mar the New Year's weekend accident rate in Torrance which fell far short of the pace set throughout other parts of the nation.

The California Highway Patrol office in Compton reported that of 15 police agencies within its jurisdiction in this area not one fatal accident was reported during the three-day weekend.

ONE "502" BOOKED

Local police booked only one driver on a "502"—drunk driving, while eight drunks now have diplomas (receipts for \$25 fines) from the local "Hangover Hall."

According to Lucille Stroh, police matron and record clerk, the Torrance police handled seven accidents involving property damages only.

The sole injury accident reported during the period from noon Friday to midnight January 1 occurred at Plaza del Amo and Arlington avenue at 5:18 p.m. December 30.

Twenty-three year old Catherine L. Brown, 2333 West 236th street, was injured and treated at the Harbor General Hospital following a two-car crash.

Listed as driver of the auto in which the injured girl was riding was Henry Brown, 49, of the above address.

Driver of the other car involved was Alice Viola Bardol, 42, of 2509 Eucalyptus avenue, Long Beach, according to the reports filed by Officers Don Hamilton and John Maestri of the local police department.

Mother, Sons Sail to Meet Father on Guam

Sailing from San Francisco last week with her two sons to meet her husband who is stationed on Guam was Mrs. B. V. Felts, the former Shirley Gutfenfelder, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Gutfenfelder.

After a stopover in Hawaii, Shirley and her sons, Chris, 4, and William Lee, 3, will join Felts on Guam where he is a Boiler Technician with the U. S. Navy. He has been on Guam since April of 1950.

Both the Felts attended Torrance High School about ten years ago, according to Mrs. Gutfenfelder.

After spending Christmas with her parents, Shirley and the boys were taken to San Francisco by the Gutfenfelders. They sailed from there December 28.

Also sailing at the same time, according to Mrs. Gutfenfelder, were about 200 other women and children on their way to their fathers and husbands somewhere in the Pacific.

Single Sessions Begin in New \$280,000 School in Waveria

Single sessions started yesterday for 340 Waveria grade school pupils after they marched over in two shifts Tuesday to occupy their new \$280,000 building at 24456 Madison street.

Despite a flurry in enrollment which saw 12 new pupils enter, the switch from the old plant at 24200 Ward street went off on schedule with the first sessions of pupils making the two-block jaunt at 8:30 and the remainder at 12:30.

Most of the pupils and teachers were amazed at the size of the 14-room, 10-acre location and its streamlined facade set back from Pacific Coast highway.

Built on different levels and featuring covered walks and bi-lateral lighting, the buildings include three low-lying classroom wings, a cafeteria, a kinder-

Madrona School First Pre-Cast In California

What may be a history-making move was made by the Torrance Board of Education Tuesday when the trustees took steps to start construction of the first pre-cast concrete school in the State of California.

The engineering firm of G. F. Schreiber and J. L. Peterson, of 2380 Atlantic boulevard, were authorized to proceed with plans for the new Madrona Avenue Elementary School.

After studying pre-cast construction for several months the Board elected to try the pre-fabricated type of school house construction for these reasons:

1. Time required to construct the school would be cut in half.

2. Hard to get structural steel is eliminated from the construction.

3. The construction is likely to be more economical than other methods recently used to construct other new schools in the district.

4. Concrete is low in maintenance up-keep costs.

The new school, to consist of 10 classroom units, will have a slab floor, eight-inch vibrated concrete walls, and frame and composition shingle roof.

The strongest point in favor of this new type of construction was the time required to erect a complete school. The architects and engineers told the Board that within three months after ground is broken students will be in the new classrooms. It has required as long as eleven months in the case of the North Torrance School to construct a new plant.

Fire-Free Yuletide

Considered from the number of Christmas tree fires it was a safe Christmas, five Chief J. J. Benner reported this week.

There were no tree fires reported to the local fire department during the Yule season, Benner said.

Lions' Delegates To Attend Meeting

First Vice-President P. A. Diamond and Secretary Fred Boren will attend the annual Fourth District Mid-Winter Lions Conference in Santa Barbara next month.

garden building, and administrative offices.

Four separate and spacious play areas are included in the layout. After being crowded so long, the youngsters just can't believe they have so much room," said D. Boone Kirks, principal.

Fourteen teachers made the move to the new cocoa and yellow grade school plant.



No. 1 IN 51... Hospital attendants at the Torrance Memorial Hospital were a little confused when they got through writing 1,151 and 1,151 in all the spaces provided for in forms and charts which go with new arrivals at the hospital. They were careful, however, and the records now read that William Edward Wohlfahrt II was born there Jan. 1, 1951, at 1:51. The son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Wohlfahrt, of 1433 1/2 West 219th street, was the first child born in Torrance in the new year. (Herald photo.)

Acute Shortage of Nurses Threatens Hospital Care

An acute shortage of graduate nurses at the Harbor General Hospital has resulted in some curtailment of service, and a further reduction may be necessary unless additional nurses can be recruited, according to J. E. Smits, Director of the Hospital.

Turnover in graduate nurse positions has been very high since the outbreak of hostilities in Korea, Smits said. Some have left to join the Armed Forces, others to accept employment in industry, and many have found it necessary to remain at home with children. Most of the nurses who have left in recent months have not been replaced.

The hospital management reports that there are 50 vacancies for graduate nurses at the present time.

The hospital is considering the establishment of a day nursery to care for the children of nurses while they are at work if there are a sufficient number who would use such a facility. Graduate nurses with families who would be interested in employment if their children could be placed in a nursery are urged to get in touch with the hospital.

"If we are to continue to provide complete hospital service to the southern portion of the County, additional nurses must be found," Smits said.



QUITE A CHANGE... Losing no time in inspecting the modern alphabet tile floor in the new Waveria school are Donna Mathews, Dickie Blackman, Carol Huffine and Jimmie Kenner, all first-graders at the new school.—(Herald photo.)



LEO WAGNER... Offered Right Arm For War Trophy

Korean Vet Treasures Prized War Souvenir

Electrician's Mate Leo Wagner was back home from Korea this week in possession of a rare and prized war souvenir.

The trophy brought home by Wagner, organizer of the Hammetton Tract Community Church and director of the Gra-Wags Boys Club, is rather rare because it is a North Korean Red Army Flag. He believes it may be the only one in the U. S.

Wagner treasured the flag even more since it was given him by the late Gen. Walton Walker who was killed in a jeep accident a month after giving the banner to Wagner.

Explains rarity... Sitting surrounded by nearly a hundred other war souvenirs and trinkets at his home at 20520 Elliott avenue, Wagner explains why the flag is so rare.

"It was the general policy around Wonsan to shoot anyone carrying a Red Army flag and ask him later where he got it," Wagner stated.

"The North Koreans were clothing themselves in GI uniforms taken from our dead and infiltrating our lines. Our Army boys and Marines were just a little suspicious of anyone about that time and it just was not healthy to be displaying a Red flag so close to the front."

RECOUNTS INCIDENT... Recounting the incident outside of Wonsan since retaken by the Reds, Wagner related:

"I was the only electrician among a small Navy contingent set ashore at Wonsan to establish a Navy Activity Base. General Walker came over to our base and I accompanied him on a 'sortie' to round-up some electrical equipment. We were accompanied by a jeep driver, General Walker's South Korean interpreter, and an Army Major."

Wagner was unable to state whether the jeep in which he was riding was the ill-fated vehicle which later carried the respected Eighth Corps Commander to his death.

SMALL REQUEST... "I told the General I would like to take back a Korean flag—a Red Army flag."

"Man, you don't know what you are asking, but I'll see what I can do," Wagner quoted Gen. Walker.

The Army commander sent his interpreter into the field to bring back a flag. Reluctant to run the risk of being discovered carrying a Red Korean flag, the general's aide balked but finally went around to smoke out a flag.

The interpreter returned sometime later and handed the General...

(Continued on Page 2)



KOREAN VET HOME... Home for Christmas with his parents at 114 Maple street is Mr. Robert J. Hansen, who was wounded in Korea Nov. 28 while trying to escape the Chinese Reds' encirclement of UN troops near the Yalu River. Hansen will return to Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco tomorrow, where he expects to undergo a leg operation to correct damage to nerves which were severed when he was shot in the leg. He had been wounded once before when his truck hit a land mine. (Herald photo.)